

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF EIGHTH SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

REF: SEOUL 6710

BEGIN SUMMARY: AS NOTED REFTEL, AUSUST 26-27 EIGHTH SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING WAS NOTABLE BOTH FOR STRONG CONFIRMATION IT GAVE OF BASIC HEALTH OF SECURITY RELATIONSHIP AND PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. PENDING DISTRIBUTION COMPLETE TRANSCRIPTS OF MEETINGS, FOLLOWING IS INTERIM, OUTLINE REPORT OF HIGHLIGHTS OF PLENARY AND WORKING SESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST PLENARY: OPENING REMARKS AT FIRST PLENARY SESSION SET TONE FOR MEETING WITH MND SUH DECLARING ROK DESIRE TO DO BEST TO ATTAIN SELF-RELIANCE IN SECURITY AREA, AND SECDEF WELCOMING THIS AND PROMISING US SUPPORT. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THREAT AND ROK FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, TWO SIDES WERE IN SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT WITH SOME DIFFERENCES OVER DETAIL.

2. ROK THREAT BRIEFING POINTED UP MINOR ROK/US DIFFERENCES ON TOTAL NUMBER OF FORCES, AND DIFFERENT ESTIMATES OF NORTH KOREA'S ABILITY SUSTAIN WAR INDEPENDENTLY. ROKS THOUGHT LIKELIHOOD OF BOTH GENERAL ATTACK AND ATTACK ON NORTHWEST ISLANDS MORE IMMINENT THAN US SIDE DID. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER URGED ROKG TO
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DWELL NOT ONLY ON GLOOMY ASPECTS OF INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, BUT ALSO ON ROK STRENGTH VIS A VIS NORTH SO AS TO DETECT AREAS FOR EXERTING MILITARY LEVERAGE. HE SAID HE BELIEVED ROK AND US DETERMINATION WOULD NOT FALTER IN FACE NORTH'S DIPLOMATIC

OFFENSIVE. IN COURSE DISCUSSION HE ALSO CALLED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTERMEASURES TO TUNNELS, REPORTED NORTHERN VIOLATIONS, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE.

3. DESCRIBING RATIONALE FOR NEW FIVE-YEAR FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ROK SIDE NOTED THAT PAST NORTHERN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES HAD SURPASSED SOUTH'S EXPENDITURES AND LISTED VULNERABLE AREAS AS FOLLOWS: GROUND FIRE POWER, SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES, ANTI-TANK DEFENSE TUNNELS, ANTI-SUBMARINE DEFENSE, SHIP-TO-SHIP MISSILES, COAST DEFENSE, PORT MINING, AIRCRAFT AND AIR BASES, AIR DEFENSE, AND LOW ALTITUDE AERIAL INFILTRATION COUNTER MEASURES. ROKS PLAN DOLS 500 MILLION PER YEAR FOR INVESTMENT SPENDING TO BRING ROK FORCES TO CLOSER PARITY WITH NORTH KOREAN FORCES. IN SUPPORT THESE ROK EFFORTS TO BUILD SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE, KOREANS REQUESTED: (1) CONTINUED US TROOP PRESENCE; (2) COMPLETION MOD PLAN BY END FY 77; (3) FOLLOW-ON FMS CREDIT SUPPORT FOR FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM; (4) TECHNICAL DATA ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRY.

4. COMMENTING ON PROGRAM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AGREED THAT IT WAS MOVE IN RIGHT DIRECTION AND THAT ROK SELF-HELP EFFORTS SHOULD BE WELL RECEIVED IN US. SECRETARY THOUGHT HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR FORCE IMPROVEMENT LAY IN AREAS OF CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, ARMOR AND ANTI-TANK CAPABILITIES. BROACHING THEME HE WAS TO REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONFERENCE, SECRETARY RECOMMENDED "COMPLEMENTARITY" OF ROK AND US FORCES WITH KOREANS CONCENTRATING ON GROUND FORCE DEVELOPMENT LEAVING MORE COMPLEX AIR AND NAVAL AREAS TO US. JCS CHAIRMAN GENERAL BROWN ALSO NOTED THAT PLAN WAS AMBITIOUS, THAT COST ESTIMATES WERE OPTIMISTIC, AND THAT PLAN DESERVED FURTHER STUDY.

5. WORKING SESSION: WORKING SESSION FIRST ADDRESSED QUESTION OF THREAT DISCUSSING NORTH KOREAN INTENT, ARTILLERY COVERAGE OF NORTHWEST ISLANDS, AND PROBABLE ATTACK SCENARIO. ROKS ANTICIPATE SHORT, VIOLENT ATTACK ON SEOUL BY AS MANY AS 19 DIVISIONS WHICH MIGHT BE LAUNCHED IN EARLY WINTER. TWO SIDES AGREED NORTHWEST ISLANDS GARRISON COULD HOLD OUT FOR UP TO FIVE
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DAYS, BUT ROK RESUPPLY CAPABILITY QUESTIONABLE. TURNING BACK ROK REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE OF AUTOMATIC US SUPPORT OF ISLANDS, US SIDE SAID FIVE-DAY PERIOD WOULD PROVIDE TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS ENVISAGED IN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

6. REGARDING FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE US SUPPORT IF PLAN GAVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO COMPLEMENTARITY WITH US FORCES. AS REGARDS NEW PROJECTS IN PLAN MAJOR EMPHASIS PLACED ON GROUND FORCES.

7. IN THE AREA OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH AMMUNITION IN COUNTRY AND THE US SIDE SAID IT WOULD SEEK RELIEF FROM CURRENT LEGISLATIVE RESTRAINTS. NEED FOR MORE

REALISTIC RESUPPLY PLANS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED AND THE ROKS OFFERED STORAGE AND OTHER SERVICES FOR PREPOSITIONED ITEMS AS ONE ALTERNATIVE TO CURRENT RESUPPLY PLAN, "QUICK TRIP". US SIDE AGREED TO CONTINUE PROVIDING SOME TYPES AVGAS AND LUBES, OFFERED EX-VIETNAM SQUADRON OF A-37S, 2F-5AS AND ONE RF-5A, AND SAID IT WOULD RECONSIDER WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH 54 M-60 TANKS NOW IN STORAGE IN KOREA.

8. IN RESPONSE ROK REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL DATA AND SUPPORT OF 7 CO-PRODUCTION SCHEMES, INCLUDING RADIOS, HELOS, TANKS, AND VULCAN GUNS, US SAID IT WOULD CONSIDER REQUESTS ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. AT CONCLUSION MEETING STANDING ACTION OFFICERS COMMITTEE WAS INSTITUTIONALIZED.

9. SECOND PLENARY: LAST FULL MEETING UNDERScoreD AND SUMMARIZED KEY POINTS ABOVE WITH MND SUH EXPRESSING DEEP GRATITUDE FOR US SUPPORT AND PLEASURE AT BEING ABLE TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT PARK THAT MEETING HAD BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MADE FOUR CONCLUDING POINTS: (1) WHILE NORTH KOREAN STRENGTH GROWING ROK STRENGTH HAD GROWN RELATIVELY FASTER; (2) ROKS POLITICAL COHESION AND WILL WERE STRONG AND THIS WAS VITAL; (3) THERE WAS NEED FOR COMPLEMENTARITY OF FORCES AND IN THIS REGARD US WOULD AUGMENT EXERCISES TO SHOW ENEMY ITS CAPABILITY AND WOULD PURSUE PLANS TO INTRODUCE US AIR SHOULD INVASION TAKE PLACE; (4) ALL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REFLECTED COMMENDABLE GREATER SELF-HELP ON PART ROKS AND WERE ENCOURAGING TESTAMENT TO ROK DETERMINATION.

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